

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OES-05 ACDA-10

NRC-07 ERDA-07 /085 R

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH(INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN(INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

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R 312239Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 31, 1975.

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Q. THERE'S A STORY ON THE FRONT PAGE OF TODAY'S BOSTON GLOBE WHICH QUOTES U.S. ANALYSTS -- WHO ARE NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED -- AS SAYING THAT THEY BELIEVE ISRAEL HAS 10 ATOMIC WEAPONS. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I HAVE SEEN THE STORY. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THE ARTICLE ITSELF.

I WOULD NOTE THAT ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAS SAID, IN AN INTERVIEW IN DANISH TELEVISION LAST DECEMBER -- THE 17TH, I BELIEVE -- THAT ISRAEL IS NOT A NUCLEAR POWER --

Q. IS NOT?

A. THAT IS RIGHT. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL IS NOT A NUCLEAR ' POWER --WHICH MEANS THAT ISRAEL HAS NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO REPEATED AT THAT TIME THAT IT IS ISRAELI GOVERNMENT POLICY NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

Q. DOES THIS COUNTRY, WHICH IS A SPONSOR TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY, HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL COULD QUICKLY BECOME A NUCLEAR POWER?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO BASE A REPLY TO THAT QUESTION. I WOULD JUST NOTE AGAIN WHAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN SAID: THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THE MIDDLE EAST.

I MIGHT ADD -- AS YOU RAISED THE NPT -- I WOULD LIKE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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REITERATE OR REPEAT THAT AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT EVERY STATE SHOULD ADHERE TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

Q. I GATHER, IN ANSWER TO THE INITIAL QUESTION, YOU'RE NOT COMMENTING PRO OR CON ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE UNITED STATES HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORIGINAL INFORMATION ON THE REPORT.

A. THAT IS RIGHT. I AM NOT COMMENTING ON THE ARTICLE.

Q. YOU SAID YOU STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT EVERY COUNTRY SHOULD "ADHERE" -- THAT WAS THE VERB YOU USED?

A. YES. SHOULD ADHERE.

Q. YOU CANNOT ADHERE IF YOU DID NOT SIGN IT. ISRAEL DID NOT SIGN IT.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. SO WOULD YOU ADD URGING ISRAEL TO SIGN IT?

A. WELL, I THINK IT IS CLEARLY IMPLIED IN MY REITERATION OF U.S. POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. YOU PARTICULARLY IMPLY THAT ISRAEL SHOULD SIGN?

A. WE BELIEVE EVERY STATE -- EVERY STATE -- SHOULD ADHERE TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

Q. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU NEGOTIATED WITH ISRAEL THE SALE OF REACTORS. CAN YOU REFRESH OUR MEMORY ON WHAT HAPPENED WITH THESE NEGOTIATIONS?
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A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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